

# CHARLESTON

## FIRE DEPARTMENT



### CFD Responds to Several Possible Structure Fires on James Island

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Charleston, SC (August 2, 2014): Automatic aid partners with the Charleston Fire Department, James Island Fire Department, St. John's Fire Department, St. Andrews Fire Department, North Charleston Fire Department, Charleston County EMS, Charleston Police Department responded to several possible structure fire in the early morning hours of 8/2/2014.

#### Peas Hill Road – James Island

- Units alerted to possible structure fire at 3:06 AM.
- Occupants of home reported hearing a loud bang during a storm and observed smoke and fire from the attic area of the home.
- Fire department personnel extinguished a fire in the attic.
- Red Cross assisted 4 adults and one child who were residents of the home. No injuries reported.

#### Clearspring Drive – James Island

- Units dispatched to possible structure fire at 3:09 AM.
- Occupants report house possibly struck by lightning.
- Light haze in the house upon fire department arrival, no fire.
- No injuries reported

#### Ocean Neighbors Boulevard – James Island

- Units dispatched for possible structure fires at 3:27 AM and 3:29 AM
- Occupants at both structures report possible lightning strike.
- No fire upon arrival, damage to both structures electrical systems.
- No injuries reported.

"The multiple calls for service at near identical times again proved the value of the automatic aid agreement and the strength of the regional partnership," said Deputy Chief John Tippet. "Units from all five participating departments responded to the calls without hesitation, while committed command officers worked in concert to ensure vacant stations were covered. On scene commanders were quick to evaluate the incidents using knowledge gained from joint training to bring the incidents under control and make units available for the next call."

The National Weather Service estimates that approximately 4,400 homes are struck by lightning every year. The National Weather Service recommends you stay indoors during a thunderstorm. If you are indoors remember these tips:

- Don't touch electrical equipment or cords or anything electrical that may be charging.

- Stay away from windows or going on porches.
- Stay off of corded phones. Use a cellular phone if possible.
- Bring in pets from outdoors and keep them inside.

The Charleston Fire Department would also like to remind citizens of the following:

- Install and maintain smoke alarms in your home. Every level of your home should have smoke alarms and inside and outside of each sleeping area.
- Test smoke alarms monthly and replace batteries in the alarms on a yearly basis.
- Develop a home escape plan for your residence with two means of egress.
- If you smell smoke in your home or think your home has been struck by lightning, please do not hesitate to dial 9-1-1.

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